

- (b) combining the silanized silica magnetic particle with a nucleic acid adsorption solution having a pH of up to about pH 8.0, the nucleic acid adsorption solution comprising the target nucleic acid and at least one non-target material, wherein the target nucleic acid selectively adsorbs to the silanized silica magnetic particle, thereby forming a complex; and
- (c) separating the complex from the adsorption solution.

Please add the following new claims:

- 50. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the wash solution is water.
- 51. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the wash solution is water.

III. REMARKS

A. Amendments to the Specification

Amendments to the specification set forth herein above have been introduced either to correct typographical errors and other informalities in the specification and claims or to conform one part of the specification to another. Amendments introduced herein to correct typographic errors and other informalities include the following. The misspelled term, "electrophoresis" has been replaced by --electrophoresis-- on page 7, lines 8 and 11. The term, "ferromagnetic", has been replaced by --ferrimagnetic-- on page 8, line 14. The misspelled term, "form", has been replaced by --from-- on page 12, line 11. The term, "aresiliceous", has been replaced by --are siliceous-- on page 18, line 13, thereby inserting a space between "are" and "siliceous". The preposition --in-- has been inserted immediately after "overnight" on page 23. The misspelled term "isoproanol" on page 27, line 5, has been replaced with --isopropanol--. The correct abbreviation for polyvinylpolypyrrolidone, --PVPP--, has been substituted for the incorrect abbreviation, "PVP" on page 27, line 23. (See Specification, p. 27, line 19 for a definition of the term, "PVPP"). A period has been added to the end of the sentence on page 29, line 10, ending with the word "ladder". Finally, the term "get" has been replaced by --gel-- on page 30, line 18.

Amendments introduced in order to conform teachings in one part of the specification with those in another part of the same specification include the following. The specification, as filed, discloses a preferred formula for silane ligands (general formula (I)), such that R_1 and R_2 can be, independently, any one of a number of different things, including linkages to

other silanes to generate higher order polymers (See p.6, lines 3-20, especially lines 18-20). On page 20, lines 3-5 of the specification is disclosed a particularly preferred embodiment of the silane ligand of general formula (I), the ligand of general formula (IV). The definition of subunits R_1 and R_2 of general formula IV has been amended herein to insert , or a linkage to another silane ligand to generate a higher order polymer after the formula " $-OCH_2CH_3$ " on line 7 of page 20 to more closely conform the description of R_1 and R_2 with that of the same subunits of formula (I) on page 6, lines 18-20 of the specification. The same phrase has also been inserted on page 22, immediately after " $-OCH_2CH_3$ " to define the same two subunits (i.e., R_1 and R_2) of the structure of formula (VI) on page 22, line 29. An "or" has been deleted from the same line on page 22.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the amendments to the specification set forth herein, and described herein above, introduce any new matter into the application as filed.

B. Amendments to the Claims

Claim 32 has been amended to delete [24] and insert 31 in order to correct a typographical error in the claim, as filed.

Claims 6 and 37 have been amended to define R_1 and R_2 of the silane ligand element of each claim as being "selected from the group consisting of -OH, -CH₃, [or] -OCH₃, and a linkage to another silane ligand to generate a higher order polymer". This amendment was made to change the format of the description of R_1 and R_2 in each claim to that of a Markush group. Basis for term and a linkage to another silane ligand to generate a higher order polymer can be found on page 6, lines 3-20 of the specification.

Finally, two new dependent claims, claims 50 and 51 were added to the claims, herein. The new claims are each directed to an additional embodiment of the water wash steps of claims 31 and 44, respectively. The basis for these amendments can be found disclosed on page 14, lines 16-18 of the specification.

For reasons set forth, above, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the amendments to the claims introduced herein introduce new matter to the application, as filed.

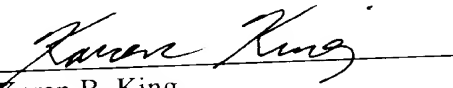
III. SUMMARY

Applicants respectfully submit that all the amendments to the specification and claims introduced herein either correct informalities in the application or as conform the

specification or claims to other parts of the application. Applicants submit, furthermore, that all the claims of the application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowance. In the event that there are any issues, which can be expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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